

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 02018 101625Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00
 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 /056 W
 -----071364 101627Z /53

P R 101600Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 950
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

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CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, SF
SUBJECT: TRIAL OF DETAINED JOURNALIST ENOCH DUMA

REF: PRETORIA 1851 AND PREVIOUS (NOTAL)

1. SUNDAY TIMES REPORTER ENOCH DUMA CAME TO TRIAL, ALONG WITH AITKEN RAMUDZULI ON APRIL 10. EMBOFF ATTENDED FIRST SESSION BUT, ALONG WITH ENTIRE GALLERY, WAS ASKED TO LEAVE WHEN FIRST THREE WITNESSES BROUGHT BY THE STATE WERE MINORS. APPARENTLY THE PRESIDING JUDGE, JUSTICE STEYN, RULED THAT TESTIMONY BY MINORS SHOULD BE HEARD BY NO ONE EXCEPT THE BENCH, THE DEFENDANTS AND THE LEGAL REPRESENTATIVES. DEFENSE COUNCIL TOLD EMBOFF THAT THIS RULING WOULD APPLY FOR ONLY THE ONE DAY THAT THE MINORS WERE TESTIFYING.

2. ACCORDING TO DUMA AND HIS LEGAL COUNSEL, BOTH OF WHOM EMBOFF WAS ABLE TO SPEAK WITH AT LENGTH, OF THIRTY-SIX WITNESSES TO BE CALLED BY THE STATE, ONLY ONE WOULD
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TESTIFY DIRECTLY AGAINST DUMA. BOTH FELT THAT HIS CHANCES FOR ACQUITTAL WERE STILL HIGH. THEY ESTIMATED THAT TRIAL WOULD LAST AT LEAST FOUR WEEKS.

3. ATTENDANCE AT TRIAL CONSISTED MOSTLY OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS, WITH LITTLE PRESS COVERAGE EXCEPT FOR DUMA'S PRESENT EMPLOYER, THE SUNDAY TIMES, A FORMER EMPLOYER, THE

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, AND A UPI REPRESENTATIVE.
SUNDAY TIMES EDITOR, TERTIUS MYBURGH, TOLD EMBOFF THAT
THE PAPER HAS CONTINUED TO PAY DUMA'S SALARY AND WILL
PICK UP ALL LEGAL COSTS.

4. EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR TRIAL.
BOWDLER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 10 apr 1978
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
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